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AQUAMAN
FOR THE MAN WHO HAS CHOSEN A LIFE OF COURAGEOUS ACTION, MOMENTS OF TENDERNESS AND SOFT PLEASURE ARE ALL TOO RARE. NO ONE KNOWS THIS BETTER THAN AQUAMAN, WHO HAS FOLLOWED THE PATH OF THE HERO SINCE HIS YOUTH...
IMAGINE THEN THE MANY MOODS & CONSTERNATION WHEN ONE OF THESE MOST MIXABLE MOMENTS OF GRACE AND CLAMOUR IS SHATTERED BY HIS WIFE'S SUDDEN, PAIN-WRACHED CRY...
HUSBAND...
...HELP ME...!
MERA -- WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S WRONG?!
SCAVENGER HUNT!

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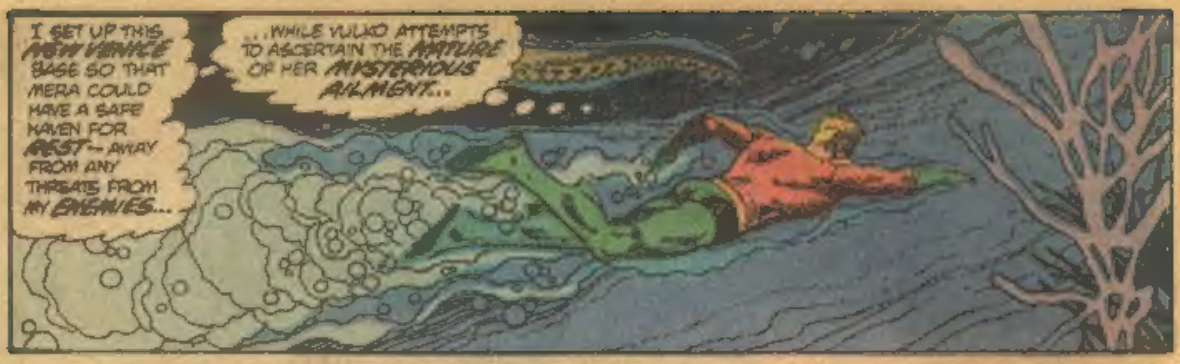
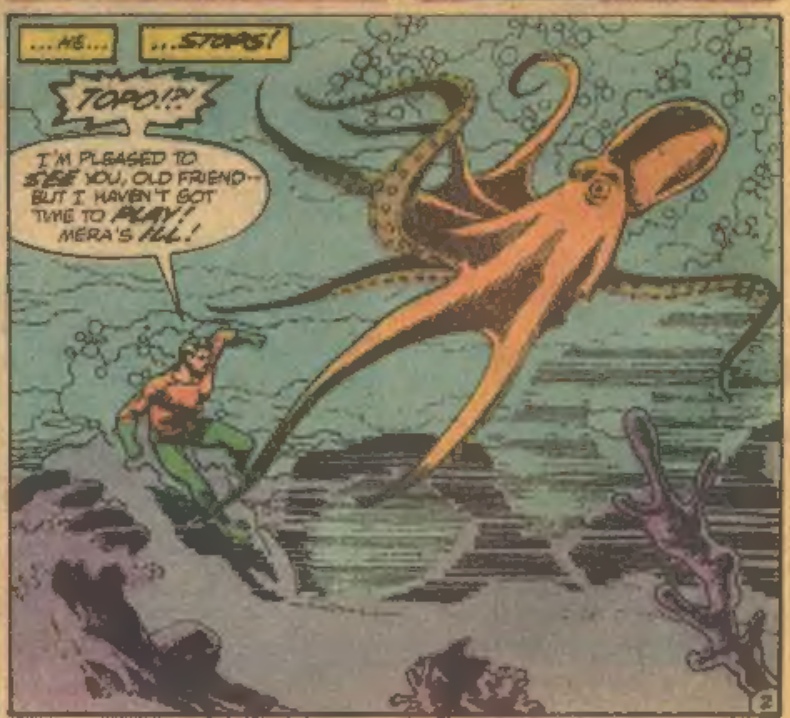

I SET UP THIS NEW VENICE BASE SO THAT MERA COULD HAVE A SAFE HAVEN FOR REST -- AWAY FROM ANY THREATS FROM MY ENEMIES...
...WHILE YUKO ATTEMPTS TO ASCERTAIN THE NATURE OF HER MYSTERIOUS AILMENT...

...BUT WHAT IF IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE? WHAT IF -- NO! I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF SUCH THOUGHTS!
MERA WILL BE ALL RIGHT! SHE'S GOT TO BE! FACING LIFE WITHOUT MY SON HAS BEEN HARD ENOUGH -- BUT LIFE WITHOUT MY WIFE WOULD BE...

...IMPOSSIBLE...?
LIKE A NEWSMAN'S MOOSE, THE VISCOUS TENTACLE WRAPS ITSELF AROUND THE SEA KING'S PALE THROAT...

...BUT THE FORMER MONARCH OF ATLANTIS IS NOT ONE EASILY HUMBLED BY SURPRISE!
HE STRIKES...

...HE WHIRLS...


...HE...
...STOPS!
TOPO!?
I'M PLEASED TO SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND -- BUT I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO PLAY! MERA'S ILL!

THE LOYAL OCTOPUS' ONLY RESPONSE IS TO TURN AND FORCIBLY DRAG ITS MASTER DOWN INTO THE EVER-DARKENING DEPTHS...

THIS HAD BETTER BE VERY IMPORTANT, TOPO! BECAUSE IF IT'S NOT, THERE'S GOING TO BE THE DEVIL TO...

...PAY...!

THE HORD DISSOLVES ON AQUAMAN'S TONGUE AS HIS WONDERING EYES DRINK IN THE HOARY, GLITTERING SIGHT BEFORE HIM...

ITS VERY REARRANGE MONITUS MINIMISE PATTERN, THE LIGHTEST TOUCH SENDING GENTLY UNDULATING WAVES OF ENERGY COURSING THROUGH THE OCEAN LORD'S STURDY FRAME, WHICH SOMEHOW SEEM TO RELEASE A HERETO-FORE UNTAPPED RACIAL MEMORY...

INSTANTLY, AQUAMAN KNOWS...

TOPO--YOU'VE FOUND IT! THE ANCIENT ATLANTEAN MACHINERY I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!

AND INSTANTLY, AQUAMAN REMEMBERS...

...REMEMBERS THE SIREN CALL OF THE WOMAN CALLED ATLENA, SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE ORIGINAL ATLANTIS...!

IN SEEKING A MEANS TO SAVE HER PEOPLE BEFORE THE FABLED LOST CONTINENT WAS SWALLOWED BY THE SEA, ATLENA CREATED A DEVICE CAPABLE OF PIERCING THE MISTY VEILS BETWEEN DIMENSIONS --

--A DEVICE THAT TRANSPORTED ITS INVENTOR AND THEN SANK WITH ATLENA'S HOMELAND, LEAVING THE WOMAN TRAPPED AND ALONE IN AN EERIE, OTHERWORLDLY REALM...

BUT ATLENA DID NOT REMAIN ALONE FOR LONG. ALTHOUGH LOST TO THE AGES, HER DEVICE STILL FUNCTIONED, PERIODICALLY DRAWING MAN...AND AQUAMAN THROUGH THE SWIRLING VORTEX LINKING THE DIMENSIONS...

WHEN HIS ATTEMPTS TO LIBERATE ATLENA AND HER CHARGES FAILED DISMALLY, AQUAMAN VOWED TO SCOUR THE OCEAN FLOOR FOR THE ARCANE MACHINERY...

...AND NOW THAT LONG ALWT IS FINALLY ENDED!
YOU DID WELL, TOPO--BUT THIS STILL COULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL I'D GONE TO DOCTOR VUL--
PERHAPS IT WASN'T THE MACHINE ALONE THAT YOUR UGLY PET FOUND SO IMPORTANT, YOU SCALY MORON...
...PERHAPS IT WAS THE SIGHT OF MY SCORPION-SHIP DIGGING UP THAT INTERESTING LITTLE ART-FACT THAT GOT HIM ALL FIRED UP!
THE SCAVENGER!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? YOU REMEMBER ME!
SNAKKKT!!
OH, I REMEMBER YOU, CREEP--AND I REMEMBER ALL YOUR SNEAKY LITTLE TRICKS, TOO!
FOR ALL THE GOOD THAT THEY'LL DO YOU!
OH, I THINK THEY'LL DO ME A WORLD OF GOOD!
ZZAPP!!
ARGH!
BLAST! I DID FORGET SOMETHING--THAT ELECTRICALLY-CHARGED TAVL ON HIS SHIP..
...BUT I WON'T FORGET IT...
...AGAIN!
WA-THOOM!
AHEY! NOT BAD, FISH-FACE! NOT BAD AT ALL! CONSIDERING HOW POORLY YOU FOUGHT THE LAST TIME I TROUNCED YOU!*
I'M IMPRESSED!
* AQUAMAN #3 59 & 60.--LEN.
4
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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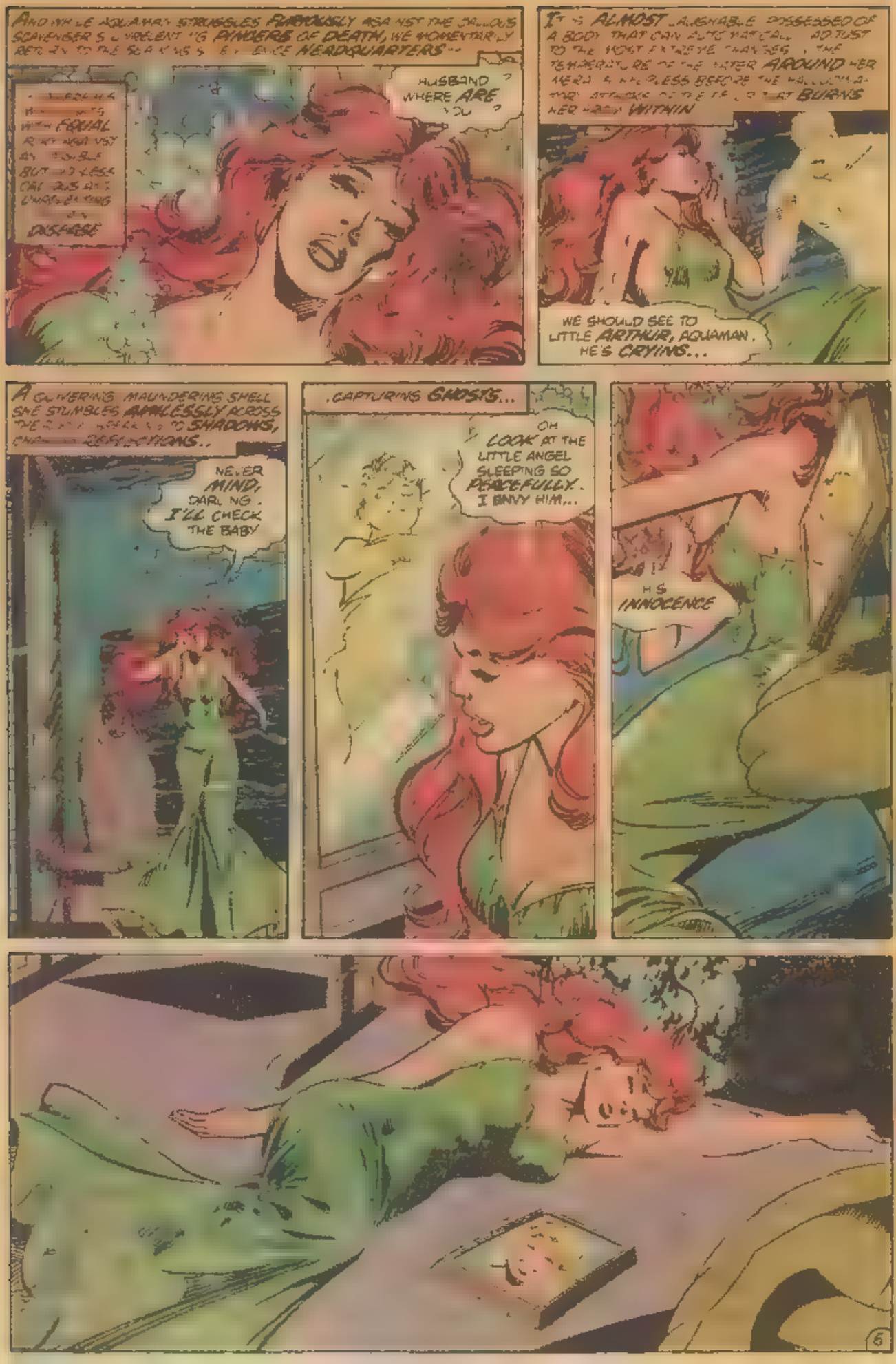
ANGH!
...BUT THEN--I'M NOT ONE TO DISH OUT PRAISE EASILY!
BZZZ
THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, SCAVENGER--YOU WERE DEALING WITH A MAN WHO'D JUST LOST HIS ONLY SON--A MAN WHO THOUGHT HIS WIFE AND BEST FRIEND HAD BOTH DESERTED HIM...
...LET'S SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST ME NOW!--WHEN I'M NOT UNDER SUCH MENTAL DURESS!
K-SMASH!!
IF ANYTHING, FINNY--I'LL FARE A BIT BETTER! AS YOU'VE NO DOUBT NOTICED, I'VE ADDED A NIFTY LITTLE FORCE-FIELD TO MY PRESSURE-SUIT!
AND IT NOT ONLY PROTECTS...
ZZIRRTT
...IT REPELS!
NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO GET BACK TO WORK ON THIS MACHINE! I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST IDEA WHAT IT IS...
...BUT ANYTHING THAT LOOKS THAT OLD AND INTERESTS YOU THAT MUCH HAS GOT TO BE WORTH A PRETTY PENNY ON THE OPEN MARKET!
AND CHASING THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR IS WHAT THE SCAVENGER'S LIFE IS ALL ABOUT!
6


AND WHILE AQUAMAN STRUGGLES FURIOUSLY AGAINST THE JEALOUS SCAVENGER'S VIOLENT "G PINCERS OF DEATH, WE MOMENTARILY RETURN TO THE SEA KING'S ICE PALACE HEADQUARTERS--
HUSBAND WHERE ARE YOU
WITH EQUAL RAGE AGAINST AN UNSEEN BUT RELENTLESS CHILDBEARING DISEASE
IT'S ALMOST LAUGHABLE POSSESSED OF A BODY THAT CAN ALTER NATURAL LAWS JUST TO THE MOST EXTREME CHANGES, THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER AROUND HER MERELY A HELPLESS BEFORE THE HALLUCINATORY ATTACKS OF THE FEVER THAT BURNS HER FROM WITHIN
WE SHOULD SEE TO LITTLE ARTHUR, AQUAMAN. HE'S CRYING...
A QUIVERING MAUNDERING SHELL SHE STUMBLES AIMLESSLY ACROSS THE ICY HALLS TO SHADOWS, CHILDHOOD REFLECTIONS..
NEVER MIND, DARLING. I'LL CHECK THE BABY
CAPTURING GHOSTS...
OH LOOK AT THE LITTLE ANGEL SLEEPING SO PEACEFULLY. I ENVY HIM...
HIS INNOCENCE
6

BUT WHILE ONE BATTLE SEEMS HOPELESS, LOST, THE OTHER WAS READY FOR AN EXTENDED TRAINING PERIOD
ALL RIGHT SCAVENGER-- ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! YOU'VE TROTTED OUT ALL YOUR NEW AND OLD GIZMOS AND MOUTHED OFF ENOUGH FOR A NINETY-MINUTE TALK SHOW
AND I'M REALLY GETTING BORED!
WHAT?!
SO I THINK I'LL JUST SHORT OUT THAT FORCE FIELD AND BE SO BLASTED PROUD OF MYSELF WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY ELECTRIC FRIENDS, OF COURSE
AND THEN I'M CANCELLING THIS PROGRAM!
OW! THAT'S NOT FAIR! I WAS WINNING! I HAD HIM BEATEN!
BEATEN? I KNOW THERE ARE CERTAIN BEN SHEED SOULS WHO THINK I'M SOME KIND OF THIRD-RATE HERO, SCAVENGER-- BUT I'D THINK THAT YOU-- OF ALL PEOPLE-- WOULD KNOW BETTER!
BUT SINCE YOU SEEM A BIT CONFUSED-- LET ME MAKE THIS PERFECTLY CLEAR
I WAS IN THE WORLD SAVING GAME WHEN PEOPLE LIKE FIRESTORM AND BLACK LIGHTNING WERE STILL IN DIAPERS
I'VE WORKED HARD TO EARN THE RESPECT AND TRUST OF EVERY LIVING CREATURE BENEATH THE WAVES-- AND I TAKE MY JOB VERY SERIOUSLY
SO GET THIS THROUGH YOUR HEAD PUNK
I'M AQUAMAN, KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS
THWOMM!
AND I'M THE BEST!

YOU MAY BE THE BEST AQUAMAN 'ALIVE! BUT I'M STILL THE SNEAKIEST!
BLOOOOMM!
YOU STUPID IDIOT! YOU DESTROYED THE ATLANTEAN MACHINE! WHY?!
SIMPLE, SMITE, AQUAMAN IF I 'ALIVE CAN'T HAVE IT NEITHER CAN YOU...
FOOL! YOU'VE JUST DOOMED ATLERA AND THE OTHERS TO A LIFE IN THE
BLAST! I GOT SO INVOLVED IN MASSAGING MY EGO THAT I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT VERA
I'VE LEFT HER ALONE SO LONG THAT I DON'T DARE GO FOR DOCTOR VULKO NOW. I'D JUST BETTER GET MY FINS HOME AND SEE HOW SHE
S ?
MOM? MERA.. WHERE ARE YOU? MERA?
SHE'S GONE
TO BE CONTINUED!

BATGIRL
IN
A MATTER OF GOOD TASTE
BATGIRL, THE DARLING OF THE DARKNESS, CLASHES WITH JET-SET JESSIE, JEWEL THIEF EXTRAORDINAIRE
TUT, TUT! YOU'LL HAVE TO BE FASTER THAN THAT, MY DEAR.
I'LL GET YOU YET, JESSIE, AND PUT AN END TO YOUR THIEVING WAYS
AND I CAN GET MY HANDS ON YOUR FOOT BEFORE I GET IT ON THE CHIN
I'VE GOT TO KEEP JESSIE BUSY WITH SOMETHING BESIDES ME
HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES! A JEWEL OF A SNACK.
I LOVE THE GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE. AND THE CREAMED FILLING. DELICIOUS.
I HAD NO JEWELS OR SILVER TO DISTRACT YOU WITH.
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DATELINE: ADVENTURE

Dear Adventurers,

With this issue we're adding an extra dimension of excitement to ADVENTURE by welcoming back an old friend to join our two new super stars. Aquaman has had two proud runs in ADVENTURE, one lasting from the '40s well into the '60s, and the other when his solo series was first revived a few years back. Each series helped set the standard of quality for its time, and we think the new DeMatteis-Giordano combination will be a highlight of the '80s.

Marc DeMatteis may be new to ADVENTURE readers, but he's been writing for our mystery titles for several years now, and has done several fill-ins for the Batman books, before making his super-hero series debut here. Dick Giordano, on the other hand, is sure to be a familiar figure, and is a well-known Aquaman fan from back when he edited the Sea King's own comic at the time of the classic "Quest For Mera" and Aquaman/Deadman storylines.

We know we have a winner on our hands. Enjoy!

* * * * *

Dear Editor

Could I have been wrong about the return of *Plastic Man*? Yes, I think that I might have prejudged too harshly, as this feature is really a breath of fresh air and entertaining, and if the un-titled story in *ADVENTURE #470* is an indication of what we will be treated to each month, then I am indeed impressed. The stories are amusing and the characters novel and entertaining. The use of Woozy Winks is a great asset, but he can hardly be called the comic relief when the whole feature is so comical. As for the art, this is one strip Joe Staton can really do. I never cared for his work on the *Justice Society of America*, but he is really a plus here. He and Bob Smith provide the right touches and they are really adept at setting the proper atmosphere. I also like their caricatures, especially of the villains. *Plastic Man* done this way would really make Jack Cole proud.

The *Starman* origin was OK, but I was disappointed in the fact that nothing cosmic happened to Gavyn when he was tossed into space. To find out that he already possessed his awesome star powers was somewhat of a disappointment. To find out that he was already something greater than his kinsmen was not what I had expected. I was thinking more along the lines that something cosmic touched him moments before death; an act of someone higher up. The story was interesting and I am growing to like this feature a little more each time I read it. Now with the origin out of the way, I suspect that a rebellion is going to start with crown and empire as the prize. Although Starman has shown that he does not desire or want the throne, he may someday have to take it in order to keep the peace and insure that the rightful people occupy it. Ditko and Tanghal's art is very nice on this strip, and it will get no complaints from me.

Kent A. Phenis
1082 Sherwood Court #603
Greenwood, IN 46142

As you can see, Kent, the Empress shares some of your thoughts, but whether or not we'll see Starman with a crown on his head, only next issue will tell!

* * * * *

Dear Len

First off, the covers being done on the new ADVENTURE are great. I like the idea of having one feature prominently featured on the cover with the other feature having some sort of porthole to peep through.

About the stories. The Starman art I don't care for personally. Steve Ditko's style just isn't my cup of tea. I do admit that I like many of the costumes he's designed. Starman's among them. As for the script, I've been very pleased so far with Paul Levitz' work on the Starman feature. "To Die A-Borning" was a well-written tale, and I'm glad Paul's letting the reader discover more and more of the personality of Starman and what makes him tick.

I was slightly disappointed that you wouldn't be writing the Plastic Man strip since you edit the magazine, but Martin Pasko is doing a terrific job. So I can stay happy. I guess Joe Staton and Bob Smith are the perfect artists for Plastic Man, far as I can see. Plas is probably the most fun strip I've ever seen. I can always barely wait to see the next page or panel and what Plas has stretched into now. And Woozy is grrrr-eat! I don't know you, right? Right. Yet for some odd reason all the time I read Plastic Man, I think of Len Wein. IS there some side of your personality that is akin to Plastic Man's? Don't ask me how my mind works. I don't know myself.

Barbara Long
Rt. 3, Box 161
Blue Springs, MS 38828

Gulp! Beet-red, we slowly stretch and slip under our editorial desk, knowing that we've been caught dreaming of living in a silly world like Plas' planet. But seriously, Barb, any similarities between ye editor and Plas are much like those of any writer and the characters he loves: there's something of each in the other, a reflection that shimmers too formlessly to be described or clearly seen. But we all know it's there.

* * *

Dear Len

I notice in the fan press there is more talk of the new Plastic Man feature than the Starman feature. And truly, Staton's art is perfectly suited for this feature, and Pasko's scripts are ten times more witty than most 'straight' comic strips, and quite in the Jack Cole tradition. (My only slight complaint about the Plastic Man feature are the villains—they're properly wacky, but not-so-properly ordinary. Jack Cole set Plas against some wacko SUPER-villains, with very ODD powers. Sadly-Sadly who could make everyone feel so sorry for him that they'd do anything for them, the Granite Lady, that alien who was as plastic as Plas—I think a few more wacko SUPER villains, rather than ordinary nutty ballet dancers and a bino Russian agents and a guy with a trowel for an artificial hand—you know, people you meet every day ((sure!)) would be appreciated. Even stranger villains, if you please.)

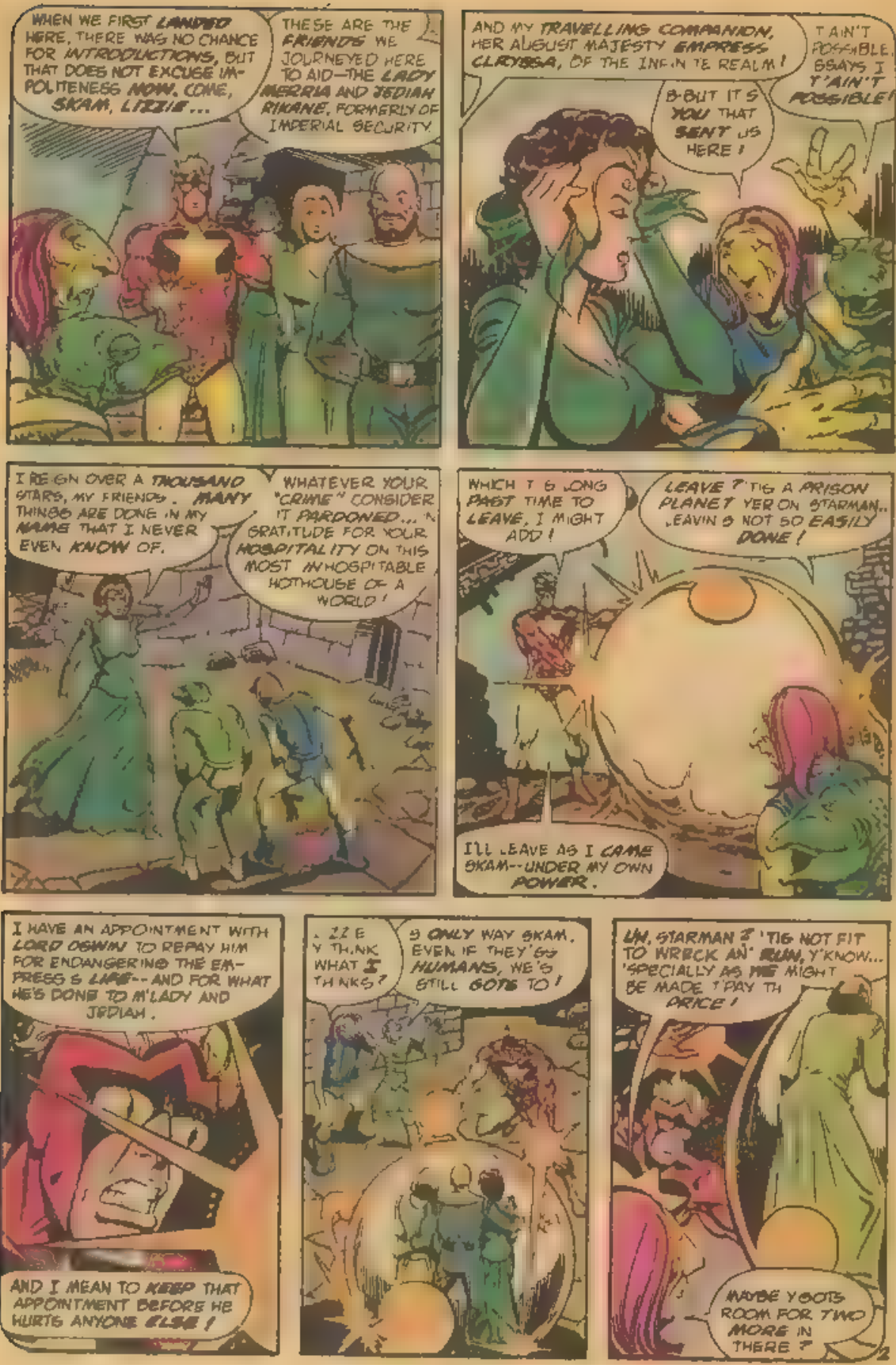
Yet, I still like Starman a little better, and think, in the long run, it will fit in with the DC style and image better. And I DID like "To Die A-Borning", the Starman origin—the way Mn'Torr rather reluctantly saved Starman because it disturbed his meditations, the way Mn'Torr is not his REAL name, (that was a bit much to believe) and the precise definition of some of Starman's powers. My only complaint about the feature so far is that the villains are rather ordinary. (Again I Lord Protector Oswin is an interesting character and might be the mastermind behind Starman's enemies, but I want to see Starman fight super-villains who are in his own league, power-wise. The asteroid-viper this issue was just a mindless monster, and Starman polished him off in two pages. (I know this is just a nine page feature, but I like battles a little longer than that.) Good art, though. BUT GIVE US VILLAINS!!

A. Schroeder II
3608 Richland Avenue
Nashville, Tenn. 37205

* *

NEXT MONTH: Aquaman meets Poseidon, king of the seas; Starman and Oswin have their final, fatal showdown; and Plastic Man battles the bombastic Cheeseface. Be here, Adventurers!

HE IS A RUMOR TO IMPERIAL SECURITY--AN
EXODUS
6TH SENTENCE
STARMAN
LIZZIE M LAD M EYES MUST A BURNED OUT! BE THAT REALLY TH'GUARD STATION LOOKIN' LIKE A KID'S SAND CASTLE AFTA THE BULLY BEEN THERE?
55 THE HUMANSES, SKAM . THEY 55 DONE WRECKED THE ROBOT KEEPERS!
55 NO PRISON PLANET NO MORE!
AND THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING, FRIENDS . YOU HAVE THE WORD OF STARMAN ON THAT!
IN BATTLE JOINED!
PAUL LEVITZ WRITER CREATOR /
STEVE DITKO PENCILLER DESIGNER /
ROMEO TANGHAL INKER EMBELLISHER
Gaspar LETTERER / ADRIENNE COLORIST /
LEN WEIN EDITOR


WHEN WE FIRST LANDED HERE, THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR INTRODUCTIONS, BUT THAT DOES NOT EXCUSE IMPOLITENESS NOW. COME, SKAM, LIZZIE...
THESE ARE THE FRIENDS WE JOURNEYED HERE TO AID—THE LADY MERRIA AND JEDIAH RIKANE, FORMERLY OF IMPERIAL SECURITY.
AND MY TRAVELLING COMPANION, HER AUGUST MAJESTY EMPRESS CLAYESSA, OF THE INFINITE REALM!
T'AIN'T POSSIBLE, SSAYS I T'AIN'T POSSIBLE!
B-BUT IT'S YOU THAT SENT US HERE!
I REIGN OVER A THOUSAND STARS, MY FRIENDS. MANY THINGS ARE DONE IN MY NAME THAT I NEVER EVEN KNOW OF.
WHATEVER YOUR "CRIME" CONSIDER IT PARDONED... IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY ON THIS MOST INHOSPITABLE HOTHOUSE OF A WORLD!
WHICH T'S LONG PAST TIME TO LEAVE, I MIGHT ADD!
LEAVE? 'TIS A PRISON PLANET YER ON STARMAN.. LEAVIN'S NOT SO EASILY DONE!
I'LL LEAVE AS I CAME SKAM--UNDER MY OWN POWER.
I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH LORD OSWIN TO REPAY HIM FOR ENDANGERING THE EMPRESS'S LIFE--AND FOR WHAT HE'S DONE TO M'LADY AND JEDIAH.
AND I MEAN TO KEEP THAT APPOINTMENT BEFORE HE HURTS ANYONE ELSE!
...IZZIE THINK WHAT I THINKS?
S ONLY WAY SKAM. EVEN IF THEY'RE HUMANS, WE'S STILL GOTS TO!
UH, STARMAN? 'TIS NOT FIT TO WRECK AN' RUN, Y'KNOW... 'SPECIALLY AS WE MIGHT BE MADE T'PAY TH PRICE!
MAYBE Y'GOTS ROOM FOR TWO MORE IN THERE?
2

AS THAT JOURNEY BEGINS, PARSECS DISTANT ANOTHER JOURNEY ENDS. THOUGH IT IS A SOMEWHAT MORE IMPRESSIVE CRAFT THAN MOST, THE VESSEL LANDING
LORD PROTECTOR OSWIN - IS ALL WELL WITH YOU, SIR AND MASTER ?
I RUSHED HERE UPON LEARNING OF AN... INCIDENT..
YOU NEEDN'T HAVE BOTHERED, COMMODORE RYCHEN !
MY REGENCY OVER THE EMPIRE HAS JUST BEGUN, AND I DO NOT INTEND TO ALLOW IT TO END FOR MANY YEARS.
WITH THE EMPRESS GONE, THE ONYX THRONE IS MINE, AND ALL OF THOSE WHO INTERFERE WILL BE TREATED IN THE SAME FASHION...
UNDER-STOOD. ?
DOUBT ME NOT, SIR FOR HAVE I NOT PLAYED MY PART, ALBEIT A SMALL ONE IN HELPING YOU REACH YOUR PRESENT EXALTED RANK. ?
I MERELY HEARD OF A STRANGE ... VISITATION...
YOUR SPIES ARE EVERYWHERE .. AREN'T THEY, RYCHEN ?
YES, THE ALIEN MIN'TORR DID APPEAR HERE, BUT HE HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF
...AS I HAVE HANDLED EVERYTHING, IN CLUDING THE EMPRESS HERSELF !
YOU EVER EXCEED MY EXPECTATIONS LORD PROTECTOR BUT STILL I WORRY !
URK

EASY, FELLOW WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU MUCH!
SS JUSS WE NEEDS TO PUT YOU OUT OF OUR WAYS!
JEDIAH SPLAIN T TIME AGAIN
WHY DID WE RUSH OUT TA ONE PERSON JUST A BREAK INTA ANOTHER?
BECAUSE OSWINS SCHEMING BUT ON AGRIS IN THE FIRST PLACE, SEAM-
--AND THIS IS HOW WE SOLARE ACCOUNTS!
RE EF PATROL - DRAW BLASTERS INTRUDERS!
BLITHER M'EYES THEY'VE SPOTTED US ALREADY!
HOLD YOUR GROUND, FRIENDS THE DAY'S YOUNG YET AND THESE BLASTERS HAVE FULL CHARGES
JUST REMEMBER STARMAN'S ORDERS!
YES'R WE DOES!
ONLY ONE PROBLEM, LADDIE STAYIN' ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO PULL 'EM OFF!

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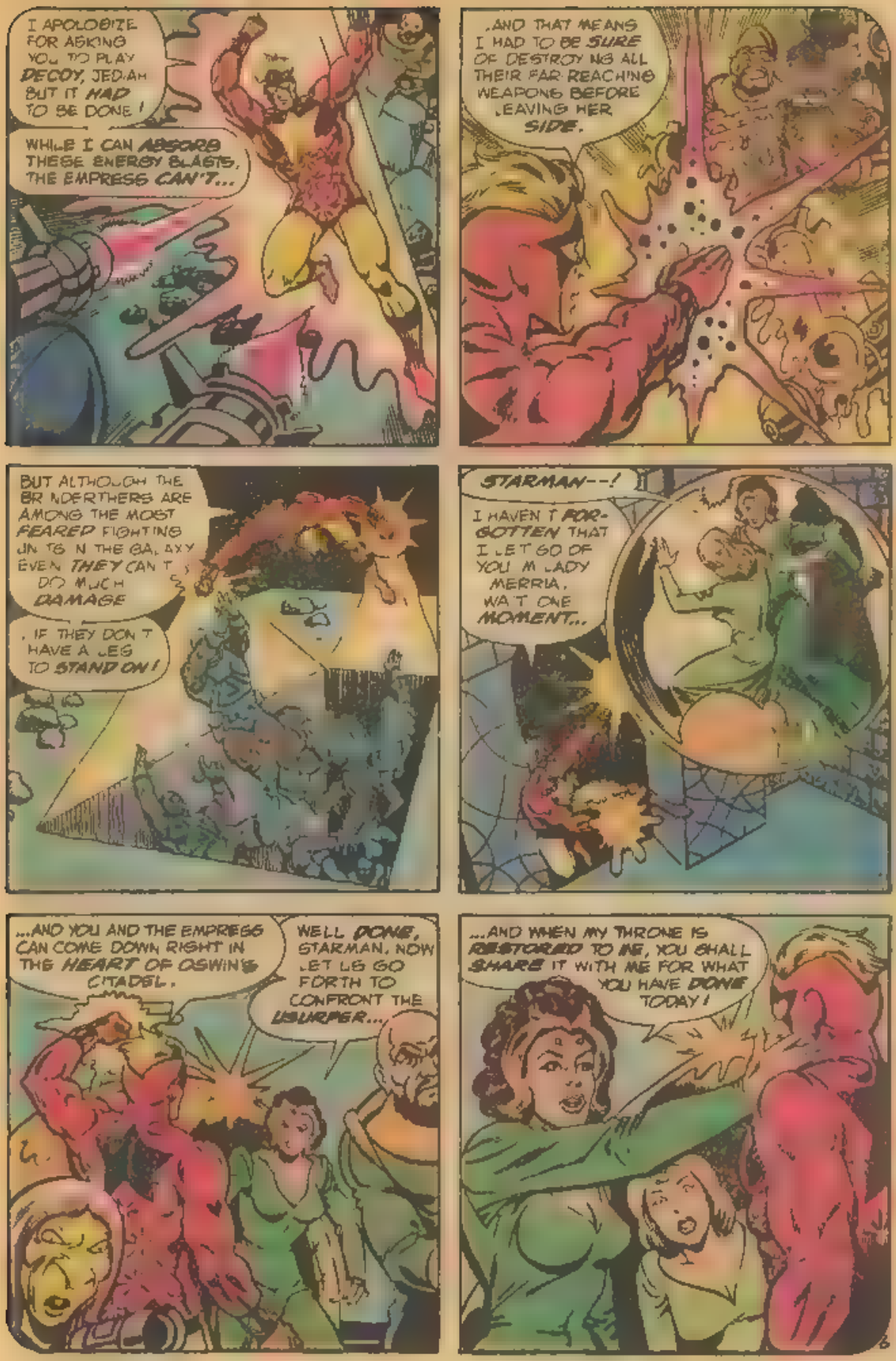
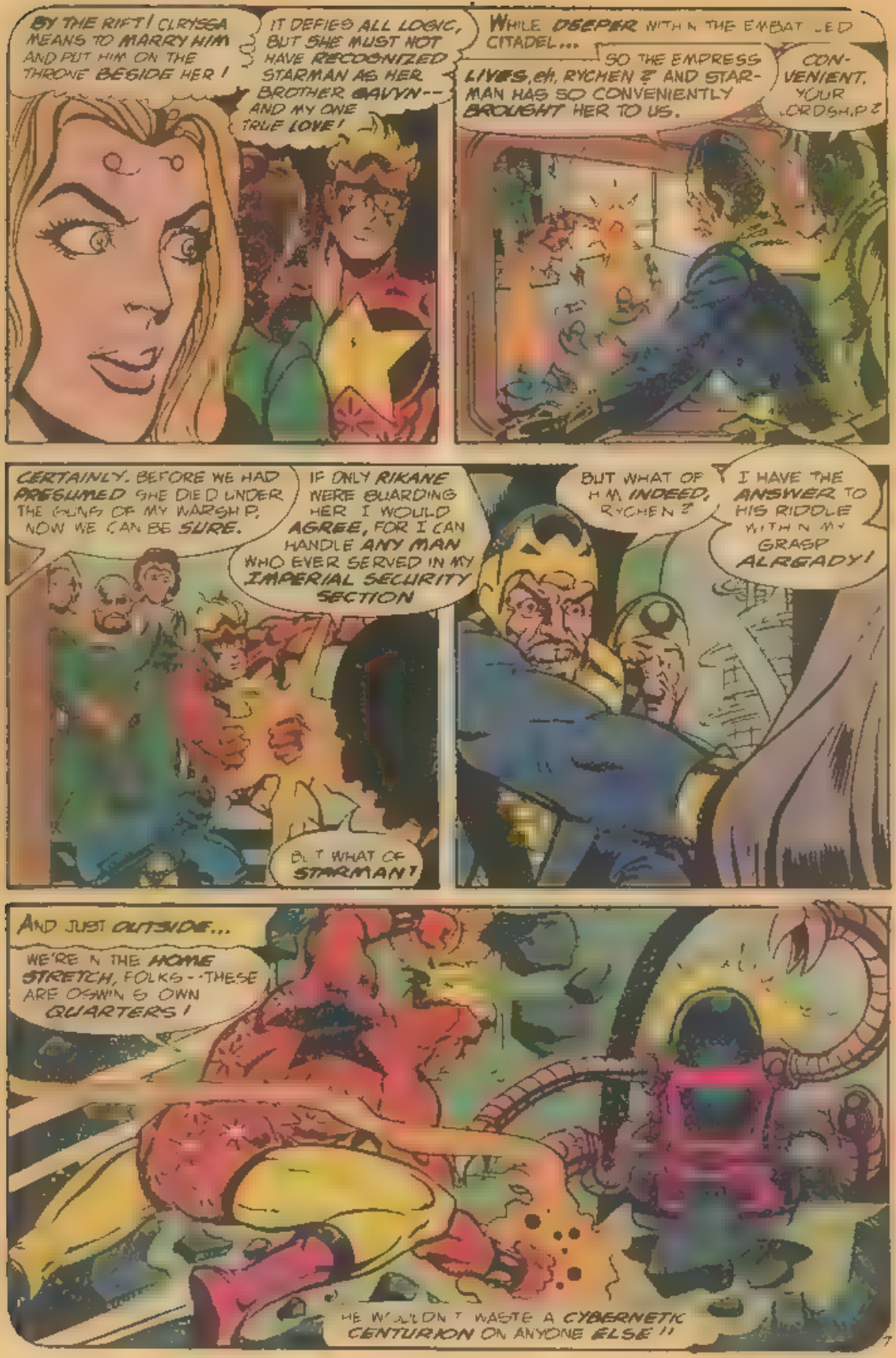
MEANWHILE ..
LORD OSWIN I BEG TO REPORT AN ATTACK ON TOWER THREE !
HMM .. I HAD NOT EXPECTED ANY FURTHER DISTURBANCES
PERHAPS IT IS ONE OF YOUR FELLOW LORDS ON THE COUNCIL OF THE EMPIRE, INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING THE COUNCILS SEATING PLAN ...
... WITH HIMSELF TO BE PUT AT THE HEAD, YOU MEAN, COMMODORE ?
WELL ...
HMPH ! THERE ARE DAYS WHEN I REGRET THE LACK OF HONOR AMONG THIEVES, GOOD RYCHEN, BUT IT DOES NOT MOVE ME TO MERCY ..
THAT'S IT — OSWIN'S UNLEASHED THE BR'NDERTHERS, WITH THOSE HEAVY GRAVITY SHOCK TROOPS AFTER US, WE'RE FINISHED !
THAT'S NOT ENCOURAGING, JEDIAH,
WHAT'S WE'S SUPPOS'D T DO DIE AFTER ALL THIS WAY ?
NOT AT ALL, LIZZIE WATCH !
NOW THAT WE'VE LURED THE B G GUNS OUT INTO THE OPEN, STARMAN CAN TAKE OVER !


I APOLOGIZE FOR ASKING YOU TO PLAY DECOY, JEDIAH BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE!
WHILE I CAN ABSORB THESE ENERGY BLASTS, THE EMPRESS CAN'T...
...AND THAT MEANS I HAD TO BE SURE OF DESTROYING ALL THEIR FAR-REACHING WEAPONS BEFORE LEAVING HER SIDE.
BUT ALTHOUGH THE BRINDERTHERS ARE AMONG THE MOST FEARED FIGHTING UNITS IN THE GALAXY EVEN THEY CAN'T DO MUCH DAMAGE
...IF THEY DON'T HAVE A LEG TO STAND ON!
STARMAN--!
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT I LET GO OF YOU M'LADY MERRIA. WAIT ONE MOMENT...
...AND YOU AND THE EMPRESS CAN COME DOWN RIGHT IN THE HEART OF OSWIN'S CITADEL.
WELL DONE, STARMAN. NOW LET US GO FORTH TO CONFRONT THE USURPER...
...AND WHEN MY THRONE IS RESTORED TO ME, YOU SHALL SHARE IT WITH ME FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TODAY!


BY THE RIFT! CLARISSA MEANS TO MARRY HIM AND PUT HIM ON THE THRONE BESIDE HER!
IT DEFIES ALL LOGIC, BUT SHE MUST NOT HAVE RECOGNIZED STARMAN AS HER BROTHER GAVYN--AND MY ONE TRUE LOVE!
WHILE DEEPER WITHIN THE EMBATTLED CITADEL...
SO THE EMPRESS LIVES, eh, RYCHEN? AND STARMAN HAS SO CONVENIENTLY BROUGHT HER TO US.
CONVENIENT, YOUR LORDSHIP?
CERTAINLY. BEFORE WE HAD PRESUMED SHE DIED UNDER THE GUNS OF MY WARSHIP. NOW WE CAN BE SURE.
IF ONLY RIKANE WERE GUARDING HER I WOULD AGREE, FOR I CAN HANDLE ANY MAN WHO EVER SERVED IN MY IMPERIAL SECURITY SECTION
BUT WHAT OF STARMAN?
BUT WHAT OF HIM, INDEED, RYCHEN?
I HAVE THE ANSWER TO HIS RIDDLE WITHIN MY GRASP ALREADY!
AND JUST OUTSIDE...
WE'RE IN THE HOME STRETCH, FOLKS--THESE ARE OSWIN'S OWN QUARTERS!
HE WOULDN'T WASTE A CYBERNETIC CENTURION ON ANYONE ELSE!!

ARGGHHH!
'S GOT STARMAN! QUICK FIRE AT FULL STRENGTH!
ROAST M'BRAINS, JEDIAH 'S TAKIN' ALL WE CAN THROW AT IT - AN MORE!
AS EVEN GOT SSOME ENERGIESS LEFT TO BLAST STARMAN!
AND T WAS ALMOST ENOUGH TO FRY ME TOO - BUT ONLY ALMOST!
BY ABSORBING ITS ENERGIES - AND THE POWER OF YOUR BLASTS-- I WAS ABLE TO THROW ENOUGH ERGS OF MICRO-RADIATION AT IT TO SCRAMBLE 'S CIRCUITS!
NICELY DONE-- BUT FUTILE, STARMAN!
OSWIN- YOU TRAITOR!
BY THE GODS H HE S HOLDING MN'TORR'S STAFF!
GO T SEE!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE W TH MN'TORR, OSW N ?
WHY I MERELY LISTENED TO HIM, STARMAN
...AND NOW I KNOW ALL YOUR SECRETS AND WEAKNESSES...
.. WHILE YOU POOR FELLOW KNOW NONE OF MINE!
AARRGHH!!
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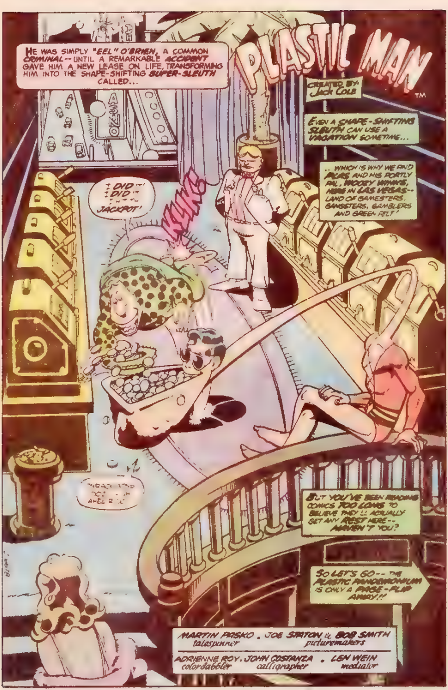
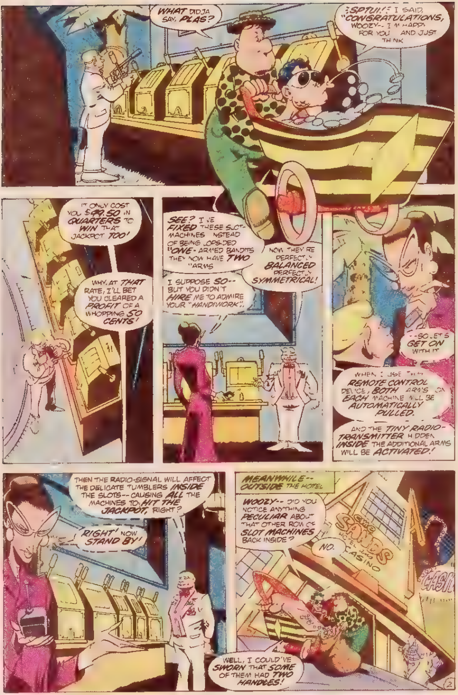
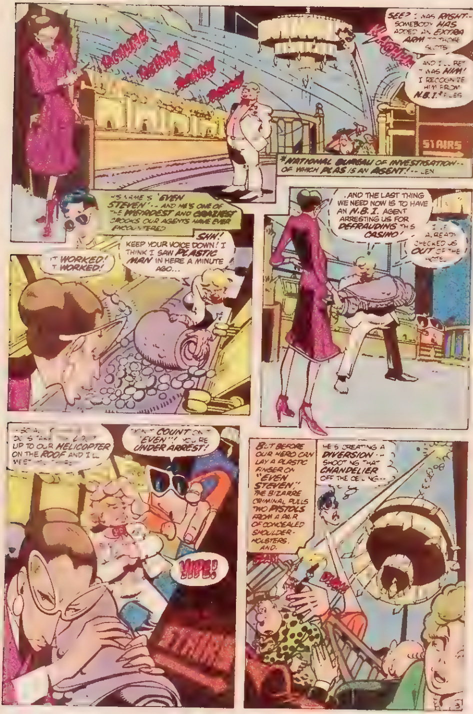


HE WAS SIMPLY "EEL" O'BRIEN, A COMMON CRIMINAL -- UNTIL A REMARKABLE ACCIDENT GAVE HIM A NEW LEASE ON LIFE, TRANSFORMING HIM INTO THE SHAPE-SHIFTING SUPER-SLEUTH CALLED...
PLASTIC MAN
CREATED BY: JACK COLE
TM
EVEN A SHAPE-SHIFTING SLEUTH CAN USE A VACATION SOMETIME...
...WHICH IS WHY WE FIND PLAS AND HIS PORTLY PAL, WOOZY WINKS, HERE IN LAS VEGAS -- LAND OF GAMESTERS, GANGSTERS, GAMBLERS AND GREEN FELT!
I DID I DID JACKPOT!
KLUNG!
BUT YOU'VE BEEN READING COMICS TOO LONG TO BELIEVE THEY'LL ACTUALLY GET ANY REST HERE -- HAVEN'T YOU?
SO LET'S GO -- THE PLASTIC PANDEMONIUM IS ONLY A PAGE-FLIP AWAY!!
MARTIN PASKO talespinner . JOE STATON & BOB SMITH picturemakers
ADRIENNE ROY colordabbler . JOHN COSTANZA calligrapher . LEN WEIN mediator


WHAT DIDJA SAY, PLAS?
:SPTUI!: I SAID, "CONGRATULATIONS, WOOZY-- I'M HAPPY FOR YOU AND JUST THINK
IT ONLY COST YOU $99.50 IN QUARTERS TO WIN THAT JACKPOT TOO!
WHY, AT THAT RATE, I'LL BET YOU CLEARED A PROFIT OF A WHOPPING 50 CENTS!
SEE? I'VE FIXED THESE SLOT-MACHINES INSTEAD OF BEING LOPSIDED "ONE-ARMED BANDITS" THEY NOW HAVE TWO "ARMS"
NOW THEY'RE PERFECTLY BALANCED PERFECTLY SYMMETRICAL!
I SUPPOSE SO-- BUT YOU DIDN'T HIRE ME TO ADMIRE YOUR "HANDIWORK"..
--SO LET'S GET ON WITH IT
WHEN I USE THIS REMOTE CONTROL DEVICE, BOTH ARMS ON EACH MACHINE WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY PULLED.
AND THE TINY RADIO-TRANSMITTER HIDDEN INSIDE THE ADDITIONAL ARMS WILL BE ACTIVATED!
THEN THE RADIO-SIGNAL WILL AFFECT THE DELICATE TUMBLERS INSIDE THE SLOTS-- CAUSING ALL THE MACHINES TO HIT THE JACKPOT, RIGHT?
RIGHT! NOW STAND BY!
MEANWHILE-- OUTSIDE THE HOTEL
WOOZY-- DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING PECULIAR ABOUT THAT OTHER ROW OF SLOT MACHINES BACK INSIDE?
NO.
WELL, I COULD'VE SWORN THAT SOME OF THEM HAD TWO HANDLES!
THE SANDS HOTEL AND CASINO
CASH
2


SEE? I WAS RIGHT-- SOMEBODY HAS ADDED AN EXTRA ARM TO THOSE SLOTS
AND I'LL BET IT WAS HIM! I RECOGNIZE HIM FROM N.B.I.* FILES
STAIRS
*NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION-- OF WHICH PLAS IS AN AGENT! -- LEN
HIS NAME'S 'EVEN STEVEN'-- AND HE'S ONE OF THE WEIRDEST AND CRAZIEST CROOKS OUR AGENTS HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED
IT WORKED! IT WORKED!
SHH! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN! I THINK I SAW PLASTIC MAN IN HERE A MINUTE AGO...
...AND THE LAST THING WE NEED NOW IS TO HAVE AN N.B.I. AGENT ARRESTING US FOR DEFRAUDING THIS CASINO!
CHECKED US OUT OF THE HOTEL
UP TO OUR HELICOPTER ON THE ROOF AND I'LL
COUNT ON "EVEN"! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
YIPE!
BUT BEFORE OUR HERO CAN LAY A PLASTIC FINGER ON "EVEN STEVEN," THE BIZARRE CRIMINAL PULLS TWO PISTOLS FROM A PAIR OF CONCEALED SHOULDER-HOLSTERS, AND...
HE'S CREATING A DIVERSION-- SHOOTING THAT CHANDELIER OFF THE CEILING--
3

...BECAUSE HE KNOWS I'LL TAKE TIME OUT TO PREVENT THE PEOPLE UNDER IT FROM BEING CLOBBERED...
OOF!
...ALLOWING HIM TO MAKE HIS GETAWAY!
CURSE THAT MALLEABLE MEDD --HE COULD'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!
SOMETIME LATER-- IN ONE OF THE HOTEL ROOMS...
THANKS FOR LETTIN' US INTO STEVEN'S ROOM, MR MANAGER, SIR...
:A-HEM: WITH THE N.B.I., ONE DOESN'T HAVE A CHOICE...DOES ONE?
HEL-LO! WHAT'S THIS--?
TRAVEL BROCHURES FOR CITIES IN ITALY!
HMM SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'VE JUST FOUND OUT WHERE EVEN STEVEN AND HIS ACCOMPLICE ARE HEADED!
ROME
HEY PLAS..? JUST WHO IS THIS STEVEN GUY ANYWAY?
"IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, HE WAS A BIG CIRCUS STAR FOR MANY YEARS! HE DID A HIGH-WIRE ACT..."
:SNIFF!:
"...UNTIL ONE DAY WHEN HE WAS REHEARSING HIS ACT WHILE SUFFERING FROM A BAD HEAD COLD!"
"THE COLD AFFECTED HIS INNER-EAR-- HIS SENSE OF BALANCE AND HE FELL FROM THE TIGHT-ROPE...
SLIP!
"THE NET HE WAS WORKING OVER WASN'T ENOUGH TO FULLY PROTECT HIM"
BONK!
"THE FALL DID SOMETHING TO HIS BRAIN--WARPED HIS MIND IN A WAY HIS DOCTORS COULDN'T EXPLAIN!
"HE BECAME OBSESSED WITH BALANCE... SYMMETRY! HE'S SINCE DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO PERFECTING ANYTHING UNEVEN OR UNBALANCED..."

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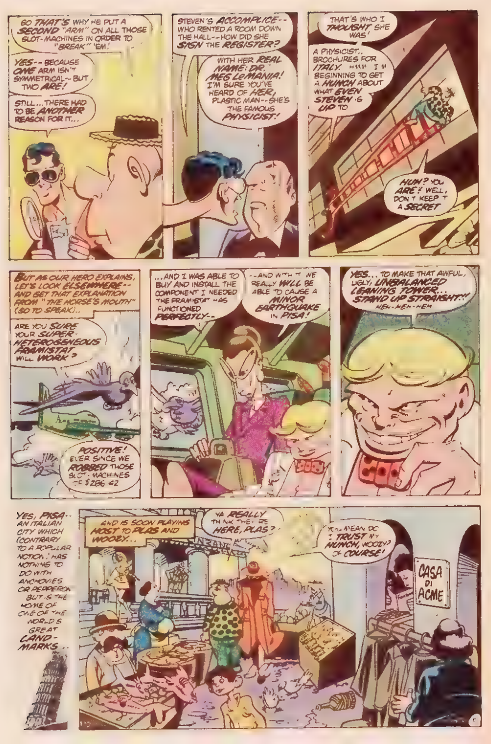
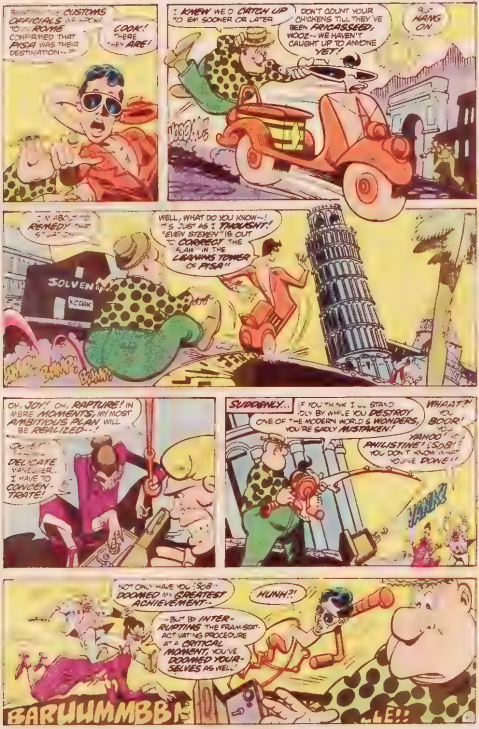
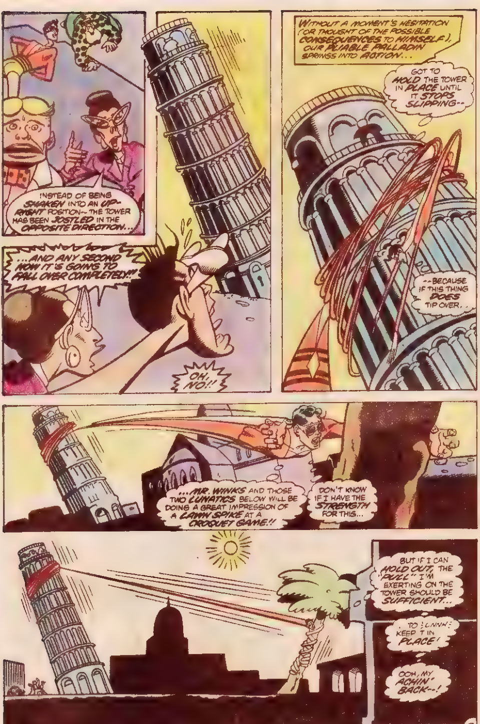


SO THAT'S WHY HE PUT A SECOND "ARM" ON ALL THOSE SLOT-MACHINES IN ORDER TO "BREAK" 'EM!
YES-- BECAUSE ONE ARM ISN'T SYMMETRICAL-- BUT TWO ARE!
STILL... THERE HAD TO BE ANOTHER REASON FOR IT...
STEVEN'S ACCOMPLICE-- WHO RENTED A ROOM DOWN THE HALL--HOW DID SHE SIGN THE REGISTER?
WITH HER REAL NAME: DR. MES LeMANIA! I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF HER, PLASTIC MAN--SHE'S THE FAMOUS PHYSICIST!
THAT'S WHO I THOUGHT SHE WAS!
A PHYSICIST.. BROCHURES FOR ITALY. BEGINNING TO GET A HUNCH ABOUT WHAT EVEN STEVEN 'S UP TO
HUH? YOU ARE? WELL, DON'T KEEP A SECRET
BUT AS OUR HERO EXPLAINS, LET'S LOOK ELSEWHERE-- AND GET THAT EXPLANATION FROM "THE HORSE'S MOUTH" (SO TO SPEAK)..
ARE YOU SURE YOUR SUPER-HETEROGENEOUS FRAMISTAT WILL WORK?
POSITIVE! EVER SINCE WE ROBBED THOSE SLOT-MACHINES OF $286 42
...AND I WAS ABLE TO BUY AND INSTALL THE COMPONENT I NEEDED THE FRAMISTAT HAS FUNCTIONED PERFECTLY--
--AND WE REALLY WILL BE ABLE TO CAUSE A MINOR EARTHQUAKE IN PISA!
YES... TO MAKE THAT AWFUL, UGLY, UNBALANCED LEANING TOWER... STAND UP STRAIGHT!!
HEH-HEH-HEH
YES, PISA.. AN ITALIAN CITY WHICH (CONTRARY TO A POPULAR NOTION) HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANCHOVIES OR PEPPERONI BUT IS THE HOME OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT LAND-MARKS..
AND IS SOON PLAYING HOST TO PLAS AND WOOZY...
YA REALLY THINK THEY'RE HERE, PLAS?
TRUST MY HUNCH, WOOZY? OF COURSE!
CASA DI ACME


CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
ROME CONFIRMED THAT PISA WAS THEIR DESTINATION--?
LOOK! THERE ARE!
I KNEW WE'D CATCH UP TO 'EM SOONER OR LATER
DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS TILL THEY'VE BEEN FRICASSEED, WOOZ--WE HAVEN'T CAUGHT UP TO ANYONE YET!
HANG ON
REMEDY
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW--! IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT! "EVEN STEVEN" IS OUT TO CORRECT THE FLAW IN THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA!
SOLVEN
KOPAK
BUMP!
OH, JOY! OH, RAPTURE! IN MERE MOMENTS, MY MOST AMBITIOUS PLAN WILL BE REALIZED--!
DELICATE
I HAVE TO CONCEN-TRATE!
SUDDENLY...
IF YOU THINK I'LL STAND IDLY BY WHILE YOU DESTROY ONE OF THE MODERN WORLD'S WONDERS, YOU'RE SADLY MISTAKEN!
WHAAT?! YOU BOOR! YOU YAHOO!
PHILISTINE!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE!!
YANK!
NOT ONLY HAVE YOU DOOMED MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT--
--BUT BY INTER-RUPTING THE FRAMISTAT-ACTIVATING PROCEDURE AT A CRITICAL MOMENT, YOU'VE DOOMED YOUR-SELVES AS WELL!
HUNH?!
BARUUMMBB
LE!!


INSTEAD OF BEING SHAKEN INTO AN UP-RIGHT POSITION-- THE TOWER HAS BEEN JOSTLED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION...
...AND ANY SECOND NOW IT'S GOING TO FALL OVER COMPLETELY!!
OH, NO!!
WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION (OR THOUGHT OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES TO HIMSELF), OUR PLIABLE PALLADIN SPRINGS INTO ACTION...
GOT TO HOLD THE TOWER IN PLACE UNTIL IT STOPS SLIPPING--
--BECAUSE IF THIS THING DOES TIP OVER...
...MR. WINKS AND THOSE TWO LUNATICS BELOW WILL BE DOING A GREAT IMPRESSION OF A LAWN SPIKE AT A CROQUET GAME!!
DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE THE STRENGTH FOR THIS...
BUT IF I CAN HOLD OUT, THE "PULL" I'M EXERTING ON THE TOWER SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT...
...TO -UNNH- KEEP IT IN PLACE!
OOH, MY ACHIN' BACK--!

MEANWHILE...
THAT STEVEN GUY IS TRYIN' TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TH' CONFUSION TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT--!
WELL, NOT IF GOOD OL' WOOZY WINKS HAS ANYTHIN' TO SAY ABOUT IT--?!
YOWW!
BLAM! BLAM!
?
SO YOU WANNA PLAY DIRTY, HUH? AN' THAT IS DIRTY-- YOU GOT ANY IDEA HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND STRAW HATS THESE DAYS??
WELL, I'M GONNA FIX YOUR CLOCK--!
SCREECH!
BINGO!
NOW THE QUESTION IS...HOW DO I FINISH HIM OFF??
YAAAH!
THWP!
THWP!
A-HA! I'VE GOT IT--!
GERONIMO!
YIIII!
WHAAMM
8

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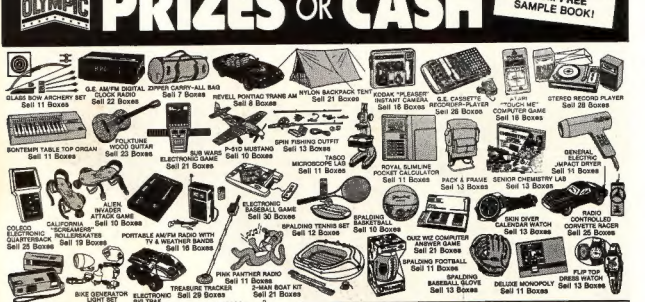

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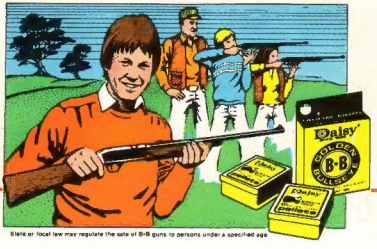

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